



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Inside this Issue:

- Youth for the Prevention Revolution
- New UNESCO Strategy on HIV & AIDS
- 36th Session of the General Conference
- Central Africa: ICTs for Teacher Training on HIV & AIDS Education
- Moscow: MDG6 Regional Forum
- Recent publications!
- South-South cooperation for sexuality education

Youth Discuss Their Role in the Prevention Revolution at UNESCO's Youth Forum 2011

Paris—Youth delegates from 193 Member States came together at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 17-20 October 2011 for the biannual Youth Forum. This year's theme, [How Youth Drive Change](#), was reflected in the café discussion session on HIV & AIDS: Youth for the Prevention Revolution.



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The dynamic and engaging session brought together more than 50 youth delegates and observers to discuss their needs and priorities in HIV and AIDS prevention and education. Hosted jointly by UNESCO, UNAIDS and the HIV-AIDS Clearinghouse, the discussion highlighted emerging issues in the global AIDS response and the willingness of young people to invest their time and energies to bring about change.

"I was impressed to see all of these

intelligent young leaders already so committed. They come from all over the world but they want to solve the same issues," remarked Schéhérazade Feddal, one of the conveners.

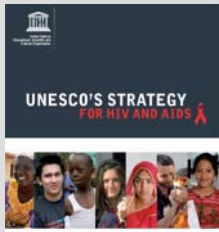
Of the many concrete recommendations made during the session, the following two were

highlighted in the Forum report: eradicating all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including intolerance based on gender identity and sexual orientation; and full and equal access to life skills and sexuality education for all girls and boys.

Held the week before UNESCO's General Conference, this year's Youth Forum marks the first time recommendations from young people have been placed on the General Conference agenda. See the [Youth Forum website](#) and [UNAIDS](#) for more information.

New UNESCO Strategy on HIV & AIDS

Paris—The revised [UNESCO Strategy for HIV & AIDS](#) was launched 10 October 2011. The new strategy builds on UNESCO's existing strategy to promote HIV education and a comprehensive global AIDS response. It articulates UNESCO's commitment and contributions to the UNAIDS 2011-2015 Strategy, *Getting to Zero*, and the key priorities: building country capacity for effective and sustainable education responses to HIV; strengthening comprehensive HIV and sexuality education; and advancing gender equality and protecting human rights. [More information](#)



Member States convene for 36th General Conference



Paris—The biannual meeting of member states is taking place in Paris from 25 October to 10 November to determine the policies and main lines of work of the Organization. In addition to the plenary session, this year the General Conference also featured a three-part [Leaders' Forum](#) on the question, *How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and to sustainable development?* Country delegates have stressed the importance of UNESCO's HIV & AIDS response in the context of development. The 'pathways to lasting peace



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and sustainable development' will be shared with member states to help frame the programmatic activities of UNESCO in the coming years. See www.unesco.org for more information.

Using ICTs for Teacher Training on HIV & AIDS in Central Africa



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Yaoundé—A distance teacher training project using information and communication technologies (ICTs) for primary and secondary level teachers on HIV and AIDS education is being implemented by the UNESCO field offices in Yaoundé in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. DVDs and radio programmes on HIV and AIDS education have been developed and are being rolled out for teacher training in both rural and urban areas where HIV prevalence is the highest in each country.

In Cameroon, where training is already underway, teachers have been meeting weekly to watch interactive learning segments with the support of a trained resource teacher. Teachers who have participated in the ICT-enhanced trainings said they have gained vital knowledge on HIV and AIDS, and insights and confidence for teaching about it they did not have before.

The use of ICTs for this purpose has been lauded by the Ministry of Education as an important tool for more efficiently equipping teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to provide accurate and comprehensive HIV and AIDS education in the classroom. [More information](#) (in French).

MDG6 Regional Forum for Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Moscow—Millennium Development Goal 6, to reverse the spread of HIV & AIDS, and combat tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases, was the focus of an Eastern Europe and Central Asia forum held 10-12 October 2011. The region-specific goals are zero maternal-child transmission of the virus; zero HIV and TB-related deaths; and zero

some debates within the global AIDS response. A panel on women and girls focused on improving access to treatment and care, and eliminating stigma and discrimination, particularly for HIV-affected learners in schools.

A timely presentation was made by UNESCO's Moscow office of the

Europe and Central Asia forum held 10-12 October 2011. The region-specific goals are zero maternal-child transmission of the virus; zero HIV and TB-related deaths; and zero new infections among injecting drug users.

A cosponsors' meeting hosted by UNAIDS addressed current cooperation between cosponsors, opportunities for improving collaboration, the importance of evidence in effective advocacy, and the political nature of

learners in schools.

A timely presentation was made by UNESCO's Moscow office of the Organization's recently published [costing study](#) of effective school-based sexuality education programmes, dovetailing the two themes and receiving great interest as an example of documenting cost-effective and successful strategies for HIV prevention.

Lusaka, Zambia—UNESCO is co-sponsoring a workshop on **Nurturing a Culture-Centred HIV & AIDS Response in Sub-Saharan Africa** with the Zambian National AIDS Council 28-30 November 2011. The meeting will convene researchers, educators, civil society organizations, artists, traditional healers and policy makers to identify how culture-centred responses to HIV & AIDS can be mainstreamed in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Looking beyond Parity IIEP Gender Policy Forum

Paris—The International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) hosted *Looking beyond Parity*, an international policy forum on [gender equality in education](#) from 3-4 October 2011. Presenters highlighted the need to broaden the way we measure educational achievements and quality to encompass gender issues.

Keynote speaker Dr. Nelly Stromquist, an international education specialist from the University of Maryland, emphasized the need for comprehensive sexuality education and its importance in not only increasing accurate knowledge of sexual and reproductive health issues, but also addressing problems such as domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape. She underscored the importance of going beyond gender parity to look at knowledge, access in schools and negative messages on gender roles 'hidden' in the curricula.

The 2012 IIEP international policy forum will focus on *Planning for Youth Engagement*.

Recent Publications

Stage for Change: An Artist's Guide to Gender, Sexuality, HIV & AIDS Advocacy



This new e-book, published by UNESCO Bangkok in partnership with the Philippines Educational Theatre Association, provides practical ideas on the potential of performing arts in relation to gender, sexuality and HIV & AIDS. It details the three-week intensive training course offered to performing artists to develop new advocacy knowledge, skills and experiences and aims to provide practical ideas and technical tips for using the arts to transmit essential messages.

Investing in Youth Policy

Launched 5 October 2011 in Bangkok, this innovative new publication recognises the vital role young people play as leaders and advocates in policy and programming in South East Asia. It makes the case for developing and implementing policies that deliver on the rights of young people, and ensuring the inclusion of those most at risk.

Focusing on the region in which over 60% of the world's young people live, it presents evidence-based case studies from seven countries along with videos, slideshows and links to other resources for working with young people.



South-South cooperation for sexuality education aims to close persistent HIV knowledge gaps

Dakar & Johannesburg —UNESCO's offices in Dakar, Senegal, and Brasilia, Brazil, jointly [organised a training](#) for implementing comprehensive sexuality education in

Guinea-Bissau from 8-16 September 2011. Only 13 per cent of young people in Guinea-Bissau could correctly identify the means of HIV transmission according to data from the 2010 survey, although over 20 per cent have engaged in sexual relations by age 15.

"The project is an excellent example of South-South cooperation," said Maria Rebeca Otero Gomes of UNESCO Brazil. "The partnership has allowed for the development of valuable exchanges between these countries and their respective ministries." A similar workshop is planned for Cape Verde later this year.

Another successful model of South-South partnership has been the SACMEQ III Project sponsored by the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality, which has collected data from approximately 60,000 students, 8,000 teachers, and 2,800 school heads across 15 countries from 2000-2007.

The results of the SACMEQ study showed a knowledge gap in Southern and Eastern Africa similarly alarming to that evidenced in Guinea-Bissau. UNESCO is working with Ministries of Education in the region to close the knowledge gap between what teachers know about HIV prevention and what they are equipped to teach to their students.

The International Institute for Educational Planning recently hosted the 15 SACMEQ education ministers to discuss the progress that has been made toward Education for All and the challenges that remain, including low HIV and AIDS knowledge levels.

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